



Las Vegas

PLANNING LAS VEGAS AS A WORLD-CLASS CITY

# GROWTH WATCH

## Meadows Walkable Community Plan Adopted

**T**he Meadows Walkable Community Plan is the second in a series of six walkable community plans to be developed within the city of Las Vegas. The first plan, the Sahara West Walkable Community Plan, was adopted in December 2011. Walkable community plans address elements such as safety, comfort and connectivity for area residents while reducing dependence on automobiles for transportation. These plans are being developed as a result of policies within the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan which direct the city to review existing neighborhoods for opportunities to promote walkability.

The plan is centered around a ten-minute walk/one-half mile radius from the intersection of Essex East Drive and Kay Place. This location was identified for its high concentration of goods and services available within a small area. While it may be viewed as suburban by most definitions, this neighborhood actually contains a majority of the amenities needed to conduct routine daily activities, including grocery and drug stores, dry cleaners, restaurants, banks



Meadows Walkable Community Plan

and medical offices at the periphery of a mix of single-family neighborhoods.

The Department of Planning met with community members beginning in 2009, when the first open house to survey community interest and needs was conducted. Throughout the spring and fall of 2010, the department met with

various homeowner groups to assess needs and provide progress updates on plan development. In November 2011 and January 2012, two additional community-wide open houses were held to present the draft plan and obtain additional input. In addition to

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## MEADOWS WALKABLE COMMUNITY PLAN – Continued From Page 1

the community outreach performed, a Walkable Community website was developed, [www.lasvegasnevada.gov/walk](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/walk), where residents could read the draft plan, leave comments and learn more about walkable communities at any time.

The completed plan addresses various components of the community and examines how walkability can be improved for area residents. Background information explaining the concepts of walkable communities is provided along with information on existing conditions within the community. A complete inventory of the amenities within the plan area is provided as well

as a survey of each major transportation corridor, identifying enhancement opportunities. Based on the observations noted within the community inventory and survey, the plan develops 47 recommendations that will improve walkability. These recommendations include items such as removing obstacles from sidewalks, striping additional crosswalks, providing curb cuts where needed, improving bus stops with comfort enhancements, providing street trees and pedestrian lighting, restriping roadways with bike lanes and narrower vehicular travel lanes and providing landscaped street medians where roadways can accommodate them. Lastly,

the plan provides a checklist for new development, to ensure that the UDC-required components of walkable communities are met.

Upon adoption by the Las Vegas City Council, potential funding sources for implementation of the plan recommendations will be examined. These potential sources include federal grants integrating improvements with city of Las Vegas Capital Improvement Program projects, and infrastructure improvement funds from the Redevelopment Agency, or through Regional Transportation Commission/ Nevada Department of Transportation projects. *GW*

# License Application Now Available Online

**I**n November 2011 the Department of Planning, Business Licensing Division expanded its online services from renewing existing licenses to allowing business owners to file new business license applications. A customer can apply for a business online and, for general business licenses, pay all fees, complete the process and receive a license without ever visiting a city or state office. It's a multi-step process: the customer files the application and pays an application fee, the business licensing staff determines the proper license category and e-mails the customer a link to pay the annual or semi-annual fees; and a license is issued after the fees have been paid online. Privilege and regulated license applications can be accepted online; however, the customer will need to come in person to the business licensing office to complete the process. The Business Licensing Division has future plans to further expand online services to enable business owners to change location, own-

ership or other necessary updates.

By the end of this year, it is Business Licensing's goal that 50 percent of all new business applications be processed online so that less time is spent by customers traveling to the Development Services

Center. With reduced wait times, customers will ultimately receive faster, more cost efficient service. To apply for a new business application or to renew an existing one, one can go to [www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Apply/25514.htm](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Apply/25514.htm). *GW*



You can reach business licensing online at [www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Apply/25514.htm](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Apply/25514.htm).





# 2nd Annual Citizens Academy Of Planning

**J**an. 25, 2012 marked the commencement of the second annual Citizens Academy of Planning. The Citizens Academy of Planning is a free educational program designed to give community members an overview of the planning process. As with the inaugural year, the call for registration went out in the fall on the Citizens Academy of Planning webpage, [www.lasvegasnevada.gov/CAP](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/CAP). The amount of applicants for the program was nearly 25 percent more than last year, with provisions made to allow for additional attendees into the program while still keeping the class sizes manageable for the presenters. Those who were not selected for this year's session were placed on an interest list for next year's sessions, just as about a quarter of this year's class was made up of participants who had expressed interest in last year's program.

A variety of topics were presented at each class, ranging from the *History of*

*Planning to the Unified Development Code, Historic Preservation to City Website Resources*. The academy provided several benefits to the community, including creating public familiarity with the terms and concepts of planning and creating awareness surrounding the zoning and entitlement process. One new component to the class structure was the addition of attending the planning commission meeting at the new city hall. Attendees were able to witness firsthand how the public hearing process works and see live applications of planning principles. Also new this year was the location of the final class, *Historic Preservation*, held at the Historic Fifth Street School. This change of venue granted attendees the opportunity to attend class in a historic structure and observe the results of historic preservation. This final class also marked the graduation for attendees, and Department of



Citizens Academy of Planning graduates recognized at City Council meeting.

Planning Director Flinn Fagg, AICP, handed out certificates of completion and congratulated all who successfully completed the program. On April 18, 2012 a total of 24 graduates were recognized by the mayor at the City Council meeting.

The Department of Planning congratulates these dedicated citizens who invested their time to learn more about the planning process. <sup>GW</sup>



Marvin Minushkin thanked the mayor, council and staff after presentations were made of the newest graduates of the Citizens Academy of Planning on April 18, 2012.

## CAP Graduates – Spring 2012

Francisco Aguilar	Marvin Minushkin
Mike Brown-Cestero	Derrell Parker
Josh Bowden	AJ Powell
Chelsie Campbell	Scot Rutledge
Laura Campbell	David Steinman
Thomas Cardin	Lonnie P. Swaggerty
Connie Cook	Maria Velasquez
Todd Farlow	Karla Wilson
Minerva Gomez	Jana Wright
Lon Grasmick	Antonia Ying
Tim Hartmans	Robert Ying
William Manker	Lloyd Ziel



Significant changes to Title 6 will benefit licensing massage and reflexology establishments.

## Business Licensing Ordinance Changes

**T**he Department of Planning, Business Licensing Division is enacting City Council approved LVMC Title 6 – Business Taxes, License and Regulations changes to benefit both the community and businesses in key market segments.

At the Dec. 7, 2011 City Council meeting, two bills were adopted that made significant changes to the licensing of massage and reflexology establishments. Massage establishments must now have at least one qualified person (an owner or approved manager) onsite at all times when the business is in operation. All new massage establishments may now operate only between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., unless other hours are specifically approved in connection with a special

use permit. Other changes were made requiring posting of licenses and rate schedules. Similar changes, including the restricted hours of operation, were made to the reflexology code.

In another change, at the March 7, 2012 City Council meeting, the City Council voted to extend the waiver of an origination fee for new urban lounge and tavern-limited licenses. The waiver was first granted in February of 2010 as an incentive for opening small bars and lounges in the Downtown Entertainment Overlay and in the Arts District; the intent was to lower the financial barriers to new business development. Since then, the city has received applications for seven tavern-limited licenses and six urban lounge licenses. That translates to \$440,000.00 in financial incentives

for new businesses in these districts.

Also at the same meeting, the City Council enacted new ordinances aimed at streamlining the application process for special events, giving special event promoters a single point of contact and a unified application. The new ordinances overhauled a cumbersome process that required multiple contacts and meetings with multiple departments. Public Works will be the primary agency and point of contact, with other city, county and state agencies contributing to the process as necessary. Applicants for special events involving more than 300 people will need to submit their plans and paperwork at least 60 days in advance. Smaller events will need to apply at least 20 days in advance. [GW](#)





## Quarterly Development And Statistical Data

**T**he Department of Planning has augmented the city's reports webpage with new data that contains development, demographic and community information. If you are thinking of starting a business or relocating one, seeking information for research or are just curious about Las Vegas, this site provides valuable information. When available, most of the data is updated on a quarterly basis. Annual data, such as population, is still posted quarterly.

To view the data, go to [www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Publications/reports.htm](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Publications/reports.htm). Then scroll to near the bottom of the page. The tables are available in PDF or Microsoft Excel formats. *GW*

### Quarterly Development & Statistical Data Available:

- Business licenses – issued and active
- Tentative maps and final maps
- New building permits – number and valuation
- Site development reviews
- Residential completions
- Developed acres
- Single family sales – number and price by regular sale and foreclosure sale
- Annual population estimate – population for the city and Clark County since 1959
- Cost of living index/exchange rates
- Distance to other cities from Las Vegas – domestic and international
- Climate – average temperature and rainfall
- Pre-application agenda – number of items
- Visitor data – number of visitors and convention delegates (countywide)
- General plan amendments – number and acreage

## Planning Launches Online Survey

**T**he Department of Planning values customer satisfaction in the services it provides and considers it essential in listening to its customers. Surveys are one way to get customer feedback. In the past, the Department of Planning mailed an annual survey to customers that provided some feedback, but it was only a snapshot of one month a year. In order to obtain real-time feedback, Planning has launched an online survey. Customers are given a card with the website address for the survey and they are asked to go online and

CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
NEVADA

City of Las Vegas  
LasVegasNevada.gov  
Serving You Online Rather Than In Line

Please take a few minutes to answer seven short questions about your customer experience with the city of Las Vegas Department of Planning.

We will keep all your information confidential and will not transmit it to any third parties.

Thank you for your participation

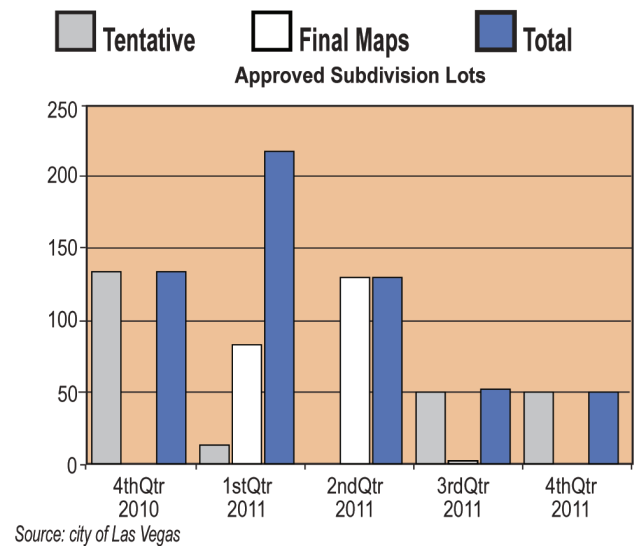
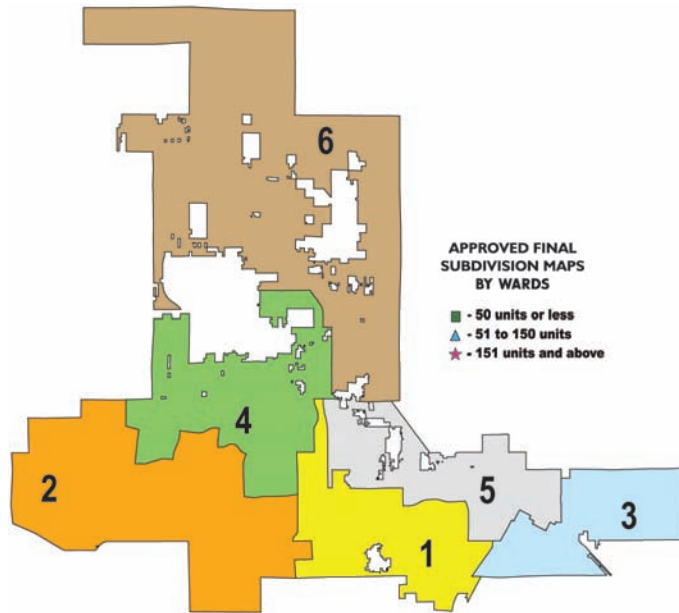
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Next

The online survey is available at [www.lasvegasnevada.gov/pdsurvey](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/pdsurvey).

fill out the survey. Currently, Planning provides this information after each customer visit at the front counter and after each pre-application conference. The survey has only six questions and one field for specific comments. It is quick, easy and allows customers to express their opinion on the quality

of customer service that they have received. The Planning Department will gather responses on a monthly basis and use this information to adjust, change and improve the service. The survey can be found at [www.lasvegasnevada.gov/pdsurvey](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/pdsurvey). *GW*



## Center For Business And Economic Research's (CBER) Coincident Index For Southern Nevada Shows Economic Growth

"CBER's *Southern Nevada Index of Coincident Economic Indicators* showed significant gains for March 2012, rising by more than two percent from the previous month. The index is constructed with two measures of employment. One is collected from a survey of businesses and one collected from a survey of households (the latter as part of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics). Although both measures included in the index rose, the data from the household survey were the primary driver of the gain, increasing by over three percent from February 2012. CBER's *Southern Nevada Index of Leading Indicators* also rose by 0.36% in March, continuing on its trend of a slow recovery. The local, regional, and national components all contributed to this growth and allow us to forecast continued economic growth until late summer. CBER's other three indexes of current economic activity were mixed:

Approved Subdivision Lots			
	Tentative Maps	Final Maps	Total
4th Qtr-2010	134	–	134
1st Qtr-2011	135	83	218
2nd Qtr-2011	–	130	130
3rd Qtr-2011	50	2	52
4th Qtr-2011	50	–	50
% Chg Last Qtr	0.0	-100.0	-3.8
% Chg Last Year	-62.7	0.0	-62.7

Leading Economic Indicators				
SERIES	DATE	LATEST PERIOD	CHANGE PREVIOUS PERIOD	CHANGE YEAR AGO
Arizona Index	Jan-12	747.40	0.27%	1.91%
California Index	Jan-12	587.57	0.46%	3.22%
S&P 500 Index	Jan-12	1289.66	3.21%	1.23%
McCarran Total Passengers	Jan-12	\$ 3,514,658	1.12%	0.36%
OVERALL INDEX CHANGE	Mar-12	694.37	0.36	2.23%
Coincident Index				
SERIES	DATE	LATEST PERIOD	CHANGE PREVIOUS PERIOD	CHANGE YEAR AGO
Las Vegas MSA Nonfarm Employment	Jan-12	\$ 809,100	0.88%	1.31%
Las Vegas MSA Household Employment	Jan-12	\$ 854,215	3.24%	5.00%
OVERALL INDEX CHANGE	Mar-12	694.37	2.02%	3.08%

- CBER's Clark County Business Activity Index declined slightly in January, the result of the drop in taxable sales after the holiday season.
- CBER's Clark County Tourism Index grew by 0.6 percent in January. Increased activity at McCarran airport and Las Vegas hotels/casinos drove the growth.
- CBER's Clark County Construction Index rose in January, the result of a spike in residential and commercial building permits.

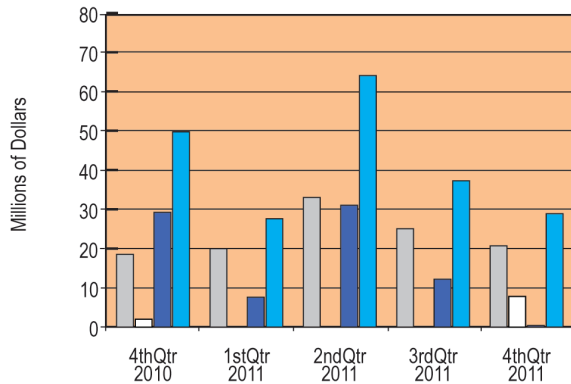
Both CBER's *Southern Nevada Index of Coincident Indicators* and *Southern Nevada Index of Leading Indicators* continued on their upward trends for March 2012. The coincident index made a considerable jump over the previous month – mostly as a result of a sharp gain in household employment, which increased by 3.24 percent. The leading index increased by 0.36 percent over last month, which allows us to forecast continued economic gains in southern Nevada through late summer."

Source: UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research, April 2012



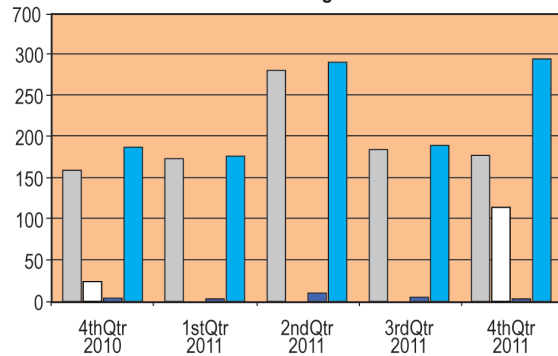
Single Family
  Multi-Family
  Commercial
  Total

**New Permit Valuation**



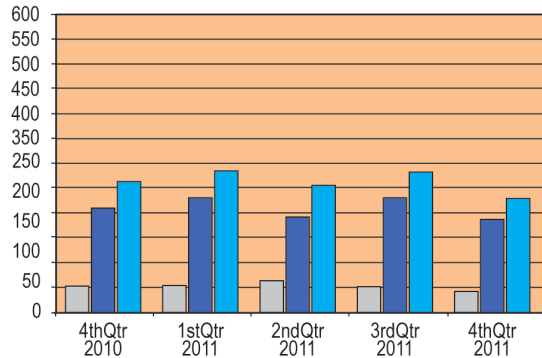
New Permit Valuation				
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial	Total
4th Qtr-2010	\$ 18,515,972	\$ 1,991,931	\$ 29,227,626	\$ 49,735,529
1st Qtr-2011	\$ 19,968,293	\$ -	\$ 7,606,241	\$ 27,574,534
2nd Qtr-2011	\$ 33,016,247	\$ -	\$ 31,050,462	\$ 64,066,709
3rd Qtr-2011	\$ 25,045,626	\$ -	\$ 12,194,925	\$ 37,240,551
4th Qtr-2011	\$ 20,671,264	\$ 7,781,525	\$ 418,000	\$ 28,870,789
% Chg Last Qtr	-17.5	100.0	-96.6	-22.5
% Chg Last Year	11.6	290.7	-98.6	-42.0

**New Building Permits**



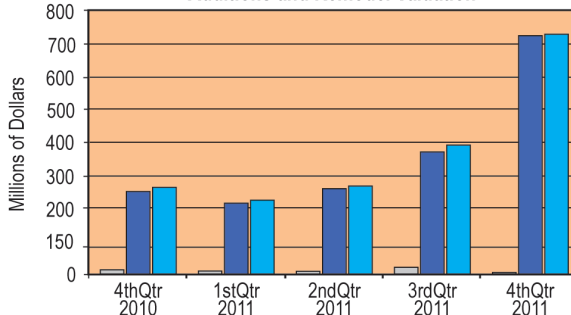
New Building Permits				
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial	Total
4th Qtr-2010	159	24	4	187
1st Qtr-2011	173	-	3	176
2nd Qtr-2011	280	-	10	290
3rd Qtr-2011	184	-	5	189
4th Qtr-2011	177	114	3	294
% Chg Last Qtr	-3.8	100.0	-40.0	55.6
% Chg Last Year	11.3	375.0	-25.0	57.2

**Additions and Remodels**



Additions and Remodels			
	Single Family	Commercial	Total
4th Qtr-2010	44	174	218
1st Qtr-2011	45	191	236
2nd Qtr-2011	53	159	212
3rd Qtr-2011	43	191	234
4th Qtr-2011	35	155	190
% Chg Last Qtr	-18.6	-18.8	-18.8
% Chg Last Year	-20.5	-10.9	-12.8

**Additions and Remodel Valuation**



Additions and Remodel Valuation			
	Single Family	Commercial	Total
4th Qtr-2010	\$ 1,257,610	\$ 25,242,682	\$ 26,500,292
1st Qtr-2011	\$ 893,986	\$ 21,668,949	\$ 22,562,935
2nd Qtr-2011	\$ 823,230	\$ 26,099,475	\$ 26,922,705
3rd Qtr-2011	\$ 2,061,534	\$ 37,354,121	\$ 39,415,655
4th Qtr-2011	\$ 450,000	\$ 72,917,897	\$ 73,368,447
% Chg Last Qtr	-78.1	95.2	86.1
% Chg Last Year	-64.2	188.9	176.9

Source: city of Las Vegas (including subdivision information)





# Councilman Bob Beers

**O**n April 4, 2012, Bob Beers was sworn into office as the city of Las Vegas Ward 2 Councilman. Beers replaced Steve Wolfson who resigned from his council position to fill an appointment as the Clark County District Attorney.

The Beers family moved from California to Nevada more than 42 years ago when Councilman Beers was just 11-years-old. Beers attended Cashman Junior High and then graduated from Clark High School with high honors in 1977. He was always active in the Las Vegas community and worked on fundraisers for various causes as well as projects with the Boy Scouts. In fact his scoutmaster, Ken Johnson, became his father-in-law.

In 1987, Beers earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with Distinction from UNLV. In 1989, he became a licensed certified public accountant. Beers specialized in PC-based computer accounting software, integrating his interest in technology with his expertise in accounting. He formed a company, Wilson, Beers & Alu, with a few other PC consultants, with Beers as a managing partner. The firm steadily grew to 15 partners before merging with a large regional CPA firm in 2002. For the last three years, Beers has concentrated on building his new CPA firm, Seale & Beers. In addition to being a CPA, he is also a certified fraud examiner, and a Quickbooks ProAdvisor.

From 1999 to 2004, Beers served in the Nevada Assembly and then became a state senator from 2004-2008. In his first year as a senator, Beers became vice chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He also served as a member of the committees on Natural Resources and Legislative Operations. During his tenure, he worked with other senators to re-direct some discretion-



Councilman Bob Beers, Ward 2

ary funds towards reducing the Nevada payroll tax rate. In 2006, he was awarded a "Taxpayer Hero" award from Americans for Tax Reform.

With extensive years in public service, Beers wants city government to be more efficient in its operations, more accountable in its decision-making and more transparent to its citizens. In that, he believes that the city should focus on providing core services, primarily public safety. He will take a critical look at proposed projects that impact the city's financial state and seek to ensure that essential services are not compromised. In regards to Ward 2, Beer looks forward to a resurgence of infrastructure investment from the private sector and in particular views the success of Tivoli Village as a significant accomplishment in the community.

Beers married his junior high school sweetheart Sarah. They have two children – Lindsey and Kyle. Sarah coordinates the award-winning Parenting Project for Clark County. Beers is very active in community service. He has served on the Las Vegas Monorail board of directors; he is the treasurer of the Tonopah Historic Mining Foundation; he is a volunteer member of the US Civil Rights Advisory Committee and serves on the UNLV Accounting Department's Alumni Advisory Board. *GW*

## Las Vegas GROWTH WATCH

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Councilman Steven D. Ross, Ward 6  
Councilman Ricki Y. Barlow, Ward 5  
Councilman Bob Coffin, Ward 3  
Councilman Bob Beers, Ward 2

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